

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525January 18, 2012
PR 12-5**Shoulder Tap Program Produces 90 Arrests in 10 Month Period in Modesto***Modesto Police Arrest 24 on Felony Charges, another 66 are Cited for Misdemeanors*

Modesto – Modesto Police arrested 14 individuals on January 13 and 14, 2012 during undercover operations focused on reducing youth access to alcohol. Officers conducted Shoulder Tap Decoy operations. Modesto Police have been working with investigators of the Alcoholic Beverage Control and other local law enforcement agencies to crack down on underage drinking.

Under the Shoulder Tap Decoy program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults agree to buy the alcohol for the minor decoy, investigators arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

Since March, 2011, Modesto Police have arrested 90 individuals by conducting nine separate Shoulder Tap Decoy operations. Many of these suspects were also found to be in violation of additional laws and booked for drug charges, illegal weapons violations, stolen property, and probation violations. Six were found to be in possession of heroin, including one who was holding nine grams for sale. Another six were arrested for possession of methamphetamines.

The Modesto Police Department is currently utilizing resources through the ABC Grant Assistance Program. Modesto was awarded a \$70,000 grant in July of 2011. The program allows the department to pay officers overtime to concentrate on alcohol-related crime and make the streets safer.

“Through these Shoulder Tap Decoy operations, we have been able to put more officers out on the street and have taken dozens of criminals into custody which makes Modesto neighborhoods safer,” said Modesto Police Sergeant Robert Stewart, the Crime Reduction Team Supervisor.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show minors generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health and result in unintentional injury and death. ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.